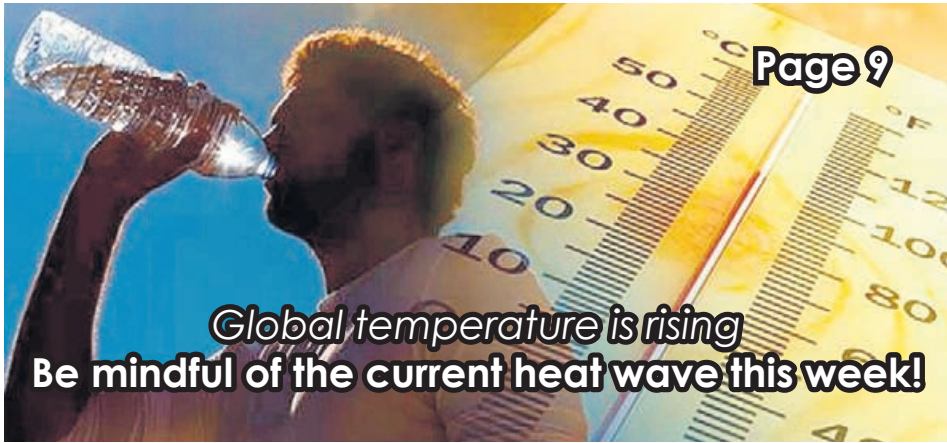




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Upside-down flag at Justice Alito's home another blow for Supreme Court under fire

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and GARY FIELDS
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — An upside-down U.S. flag has long been a sign of dire distress and versatile symbol of protest. But in January 2021, when it flew over the home of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, it was largely seen in connection with a specific cause: the false claim by then-President Donald Trump's supporters that the 2020 election had been marred by fraud.

The revelation this week about the flag flying at Alito's home was the latest blow to a Supreme Court that was already under fire as it considers unprecedented cases against Trump and some of those charged with rioting at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Alito has said the flag was briefly flown by his wife amid a dispute with neighbors and he had no part in it.

Continued on Page 2



Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito Jr., left, and his wife Martha-Ann Alito, pay their respects at the casket of Reverend Billy Graham at the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, Feb. 28, 2018.

Associated Press

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Upside-down flag at Justice Alito's home another blow for Supreme Court under fire

Continued from Front Page

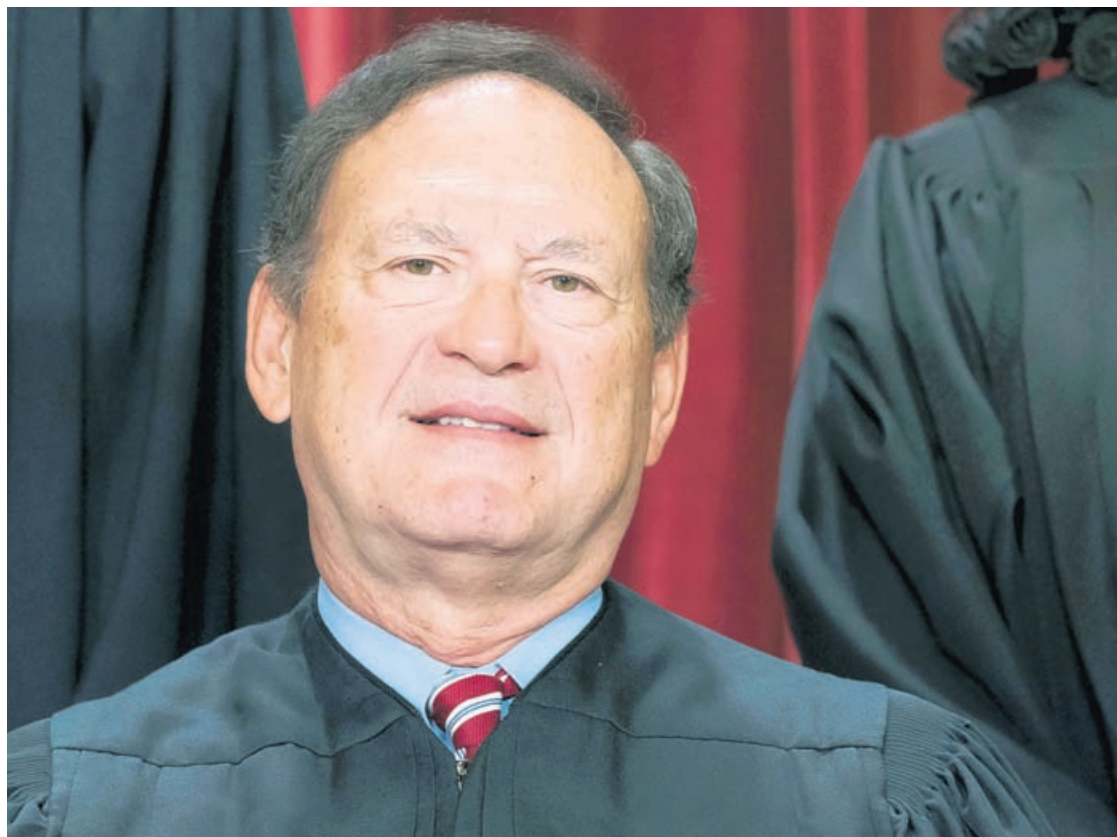
But the incident reported by The New York Times adds to concerns about an institution that's increasingly seen as partisan and lacking strict ethical guidelines.

The high court is now facing questions about whether the spouses of two of its members question the legitimacy of the 2020 election, and if those justices should be hearing cases related to the Jan. 6 riot and Trump's role in it. Justice Clarence Thomas, appointed by President George H.W. Bush, faced calls for recusal after reports that his wife Virginia Thomas was involved in efforts to overturn President Joe Biden's 2020 election win.

"We're talking about a fundamental bedrock American value about peaceful transfer of power, about elections," said Tony Carrk, executive director of Accountable.US, a progressive watchdog organization. "It's just the integrity of the democratic process." Several Democrats in Congress, including Senate Judiciary Chairman Dick Durbin and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, called for Alito to recuse himself from Trump-related cases. Justices can and do voluntarily recuse themselves, but those are their own individual calls and they aren't subject to review.

There was no indication Alito would do so. He did not respond to a request for comment sent through the court's public information office.

While the Supreme Court long went without its own specific code of ethics, an institutional reputation of staying above the political fray has long helped bolster its relatively high levels of public trust. But in the wake of the 2022 decision overturning a nationwide right to abortion — an opinion that was leaked before its release — public trust sank to its lowest level in 50 years. There's also been



Associate Justice Samuel Alito joins other members of the Supreme Court as they pose for a new group portrait, Oct. 7, 2022, at the Supreme Court building in Washington.

sustained criticism over undisclosed trips and gifts from wealthy benefactors to some justices. The high court adopted a code of ethics last year, but it lacks a means of enforcement. Alito, a former prosecutor who was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed in 2006, has been one of the most court's most conservative justices and authored the decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. During oral arguments in the election interference case against Trump, he appeared skeptical of Justice Department arguments that past presidents aren't completely immune from prosecution, and seemed one of the justices most likely to find that prosecutors went too far in bringing obstruction charges against hundreds of participants in the Jan. 6 riot. Ethical guidelines generally make it clear that judges should recuse themselves in cases where their spouses have financial interest, but the situation is less clear when spouses have a publicly known political point of view, said Arthur Hellman, a professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh

School of Law. He pointed to a federal judge in California who refused to recuse himself from a same-sex marriage case in 2011 even though his wife was a head of the American Civil Liberties Union there. Spouses' finances are generally intertwined, but the idea that wives and husbands always share political views is outdated, he found.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear whether Alito was aware of the inverted flag at the time or its links to Trump supporters, said Stephen Gillers, a judicial ethics expert at New York University School of Law. "I don't believe Alito knew the flag was flying upside down or if he did know, I find it hard to believe that he knew the relationship to 'Stop the Steal,'" he said in an email.

Flags were used as communication devices at sea centuries ago, and sailors would hang them upside down as a signal of extreme distress, said Marc Leepson, author of "Flag: An American Biography." More recently, anti-Vietnam War protesters used the symbol as a statement against their government's

actions, he said. Some would put flag postage stamps upside-down on their letters to express their opinions about the war. The inverted flag has also been flown by anti-government extremists and white nationalists who used it as a signal of a broken nation, said Jeff Tischauser, senior research analyst at the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project. "It's one thing to go to a rally and see a Patriot group carrying it. It's another thing for me to go driving past a Supreme Court justice's house and see it," he said. Martha-Ann Alito hung the upside-down flag during a dust-up with a neighbor in Alexandria, Virginia, who had a lawn sign referring to Trump with an expletive near a bus stop during a the "heated time" of January 2021, Fox News anchor Shannon Bream said in an online post, citing a conversation with Justice Alito. Upset after the neighbor blamed her for Jan. 6 and used vulgar language, she hung the flag "for a short time," Bream wrote, saying Alito described some neighbors as "very political."

Politics often overlaps into everyday life, and no human can be completely free of personal opinions, said Charles Geyh, a law professor at Indiana University. But "the duty of a judge is to do what you can to keep them at bay. That means you don't trumpet your biases by running them up a flagpole," he said.

Appearing to enter the political fray can contribute to a growing distrust of the U.S. Supreme Court, which Geyh warned could have dire consequences.

Demands for recusals by justices and judges have been part of political disputes over the high court and elsewhere in the legal system. Thomas has rejected Democratic calls for him to recuse himself from Trump-related cases. Meanwhile, some Republicans have called for New York Judge Juan Merchan to recuse himself from Trump's hush-money trial because he's given small donations to Democrats and his daughter is a party consultant. He declined, in a decision backed by a state ethics panel.

But while a system exists for penalizing lower-court judges who are accused of conflicts or other wrongdoing, there is no mechanism to sanction Supreme Court justices.

"To me the fact that such a protocol does not currently exist at the court is a real deficit," said Gabe Roth, executive director of Fix the Court, an advocacy group pushing for judicial ethics. Only Congress can impeach a Supreme Court justice, said Michael Frisch, ethics counsel at Georgetown Law. One justice, Abe Fortas, resigned from the Supreme Court in 1969 amid a controversy over receiving \$20,000 from a Wall Street financier. An impeachment, though, has only happened once, to Justice Samuel Chase in the early 1800s. He was later acquitted by the Senate. □

Associated Press

After blaming his 2020 loss on mail balloting, Trump tries to make GOP voters believe it's OK now

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
and **MARGERY BECK**
Associated Press

Marta Moehring voted the way she prefers in Nebraska's Republican primary Tuesday — in person, at her west Omaha polling place. She didn't even consider taking advantage of the state's no-excuse mail-in ballot process. In fact, she would prefer to do away with mail-in voting altogether. She's convinced fraudulent mailed ballots cost former President Donald Trump a second term in 2020.

"I don't trust it in general," Moehring, 62, said. "I don't think they're counted correctly."

But now Republican officials — even, sometimes, Trump — are encouraging voters such as Moehring to cast their ballots by mail. The GOP has launched an effort to, in the words of one official, "correct the narrative" on mail voting and get those who were turned off to it by Trump to reconsider for this year's election.

The push is a striking change for a party that amplified dark rumors about mail ballots to explain away Trump's 2020 loss, but it is also seen as a necessary course correction for an election this year that is likely to be decided by razor-thin margins in a handful of swing states. "We have to get right on using these mail-in ballots



A voter drops off a vote-by-mail ballot on March 12, 2024, during the presidential primary election in Vancouver, Wash.

Associated Press

for the people who can't get there on Election Day," Rep. Scott Perry, one of Trump's strongest congressional allies in his push to overturn the 2020 election, said at a conservative gathering in his home state of Pennsylvania. Republicans once were at least as likely as Democrats to vote by mail, but Trump changed the dynamics in 2020. He preemptively began to argue that mail balloting was bad months before voting began in the presidential race.

That alarmed GOP strategists who saw mail voting as an advantage in campaigns because it lets them "bank" unreliable votes before Election Day and lowers the risk of turnout plummeting because of bad weather or other unpredictable factors at the

polls. Trump's own campaign tried to sell Republicans on casting ballots by mail, but his voters listened to the then-president. In 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Democrats were vastly more likely to cast ballots by mail than Republicans.

The trend continued in 2022, and its costs were starkly illustrated in Arizona. Three top-of-the-ticket Republican candidates there who echoed Trump's lies about the unreliability of mail ballots encouraged their supporters to vote in person on Election Day. An election machine meltdown that day in one-third of the polling places in the state's most populous county led to huge lines and some would-be voters departing in frustration.

The three top Republicans

all lost, including falling 17,000 votes short in the governor's race and 500 votes short in the one for attorney general.

This time, Republicans say they're not going to risk leaving ballots behind. Trump's handpicked chair of the Republican National Committee, his daughter-in-law Lara Trump, has vowed to embrace all sorts of legal election methods to boost turnout that Trump falsely blamed for his 2020 loss, including so-called "ballot harvesting" — letting people turn in mail ballots on the behalf of other voters.

"In this election cycle, Republicans will beat Democrats at their own game, by leveraging every legal tactic at our disposal based on the rules of each state," Lara Trump said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Turning Point Action, a prominent, pro-Trump group, is launching a \$100 million campaign to reach infrequent voters in the swing states of Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin. That will include offering mail voting as one way to make casting a ballot easier, spokesman Andrew Kolvet said.

"We'd love for elections to be run the way they were before," Kolvet said. "We can spend our time complaining about it or we can get in gear and play by the

rules that Democrats, or largely Democrats, used." Even Trump himself has started to recommend mail voting, though he frequently bashes it during campaign events and blames it for his 2020 loss. The RNC is also continuing to file lawsuits against various aspects of mail voting around the country.

Nonetheless, Trump recorded a short video telling his supporters that "absentee voting, early voting and Election Day voting are all good options."

One recent push to publicize mail voting came during last month's Pennsylvania primary, when the Republican State Legislative Committee teamed up with a committee supporting the party's Senate candidate and the state GOP. The goal, said RSLC political director Max Docksey, was "to correct the narrative among Republican voters on mail voting."

The effort was inspired by what the RSLC saw as a successful effort to increase mail voting among Republicans in the battle for control of the Virginia Legislature in 2023, a fight ultimately won by the Democrats.

The group sent mail ballot applications to 1.5 million GOP voters, sent 475,000 text messages encouraging mail voting and touted the benefits of mail voting at party gatherings. □

U.S. security alert warns Americans overseas of potential attacks on LGBTQ events

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department renewed a global security warning Friday for Americans overseas, adding to it that LGBTQ people and events in particular face an "increased potential for foreign terrorist organization-inspired violence."

The alert is a standard renewal of travel advice telling Americans to exercise increased caution against possible attacks by violent extremist groups while they

are overseas. However, the last alert — issued in October — didn't mention the increased threats to the LGBTQ community.

The global notice came three days after the FBI and Department of Homeland Security issued a similar public warning that armed foreign extremist groups or their followers may target events and venues linked to June's Pride month. U.S. officials released no details of the threats that

are prompting the warnings. But some countries recently have passed anti-LGBTQ laws, including one the Iraqi parliament approved late last month that would impose heavy prison sentences on gay and transgender people.

A Uganda court upheld a law last month that allows the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality" and up to 14 years in prison for a suspect convicted of "attempted aggravated



The J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building is seen June 9, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

homosexuality." Both have drawn harsh criticism from the U.S. and oth-

ers around the world.

The State Department says U.S. citizens abroad should stay alert in places frequented by tourists, including at Pride events, and pay attention to the agency's updates on social media.

Pride month, held in June in the U.S. and some parts of the world, is meant to celebrate LGBTQ+ communities and protest against attacks on their gains. □

Federal judge hears challenges to NYC's fee for drivers into Manhattan

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's first-in-the-nation plan to levy a hefty toll on drivers entering much of traffic-choked Manhattan was the focus of a legal battle playing out in federal court Friday.

A Manhattan judge is hearing arguments in a series of lawsuits from unionized public school teachers, local Republican officials and other New Yorkers seeking to put the brakes on the plan set to launch June 30.

Most drivers in private cars, locals and tourists alike, heading into Manhattan south of Central Park should expect to pay about \$15 during the daytime, with higher tolls for larger vehicles and lower rates for motorcycles and late-night entries into the city, according to the proposal finalized in March. Those who aren't enrolled in a regional toll collection program will pay \$22.50.

Lawyers for lower Manhattan residents argued Friday



Traffic is steady as vehicles approach Hugh Carey tunnel linking Brooklyn to Manhattan, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

that the tolling scheme was given the green light by federal transportation officials without proper scrutiny. They said that before the toll is rolled out, more comprehensive environmental studies need to be done and more detail provided about how the state will address them.

"This is supposed to be an all-encompassing process, and it has been anything but," said Alan Klinger, who represents residents who claim their neighborhood will see increased traffic and air pollution from

drivers seeking alternative routes to avoid the toll.

But lawyers for the Federal Highway Administration countered that New York transit officials had thoroughly analyzed the plan's consequences and presented sufficient details for how they would address any harmful effects.

"None of these challenges have any merit," said Zack Bannon, a highway administration lawyer.

The toll is expected to lead to an overall decline in traffic across greater New York City, even as some areas

will see "small degree" of increased congestion, said Elizabeth Knauer, a lawyer for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the agency overseeing the congestion fee plan.

The MTA, she said, has committed to investing \$155 million over five years to address effects, including investments in roadside plants, parks, air-filtration systems for schools near highways, and more electric vehicle charging stations.

Other lawsuits being argued Friday contend that low-income and minority communities already dealing with poor air quality will be particularly hard hit by the health effects of increased traffic through their streets.

They also argue drivers from other city boroughs and suburbs that lack adequate mass transit will take a disproportionate financial hit. Additionally, they claim, small businesses in the congestion zone will face higher operating costs and fewer customers.

The MTA maintains it conducted extensive environmental reviews that found no significant effects to communities that could not be addressed by their proposed mitigation efforts.

The agency says the fee will also help reduce traffic and improve regional air quality by discouraging driving into Manhattan. And it will provide a desperately needed annual cash infusion of around \$1 billion for the city's subway and bus systems, which carry some 4 million riders daily.

Judge Lewis Liman isn't expected to issue a decision immediately after Friday's daylong hearing.

Many of the claims in Friday's lawsuits echo arguments made last month during a two-day hearing in a New Jersey federal court, where New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich have each filed suits.

Judge Leo Gordon, who is weighing those legal challenges, has said he plans to issue a written decision before the toll takes effect. □

Indiana judge opens door for new eatery, finding 'tacos and burritos are Mexican-style sandwiches'

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)

— An Indiana judge who declared that "tacos and burritos are Mexican-style sandwiches" has cleared the way for the opening of a new restaurant, delighting a restaurateur following a legal battle.

Martin Quintana, 53, has been trying for about three years to open his second The Famous Taco location in Fort Wayne, a city about 120 miles (190 kilometers) northeast of Indianapolis.

But the initial written commitment for the development at a plaza Quintana owns limits the business to "a sandwich bar-style restaurant whose primary business is to sell 'made-to-order' or 'subway-style' sandwiches."

Quintana said the nearby Covington Creek Association contacted him to say

that his The Famous Taco proposal "somehow ran afoul" to that commitment. He sued the Fort Wayne Plan Commission in December 2022 after it denied his proposed amendment that would specifically allow his restaurant to offer made-to-order tacos, burritos and other Mexican-style food items, The Journal Gazette reported.

Allen Superior Court Judge Craig Bobay ruled Monday that the plan commission acted correctly when it denied Quintana's proposed amendment. But the judge also found that his request was not needed and he found that the original commitment allows restaurants like the proposed The Famous Taco.

"The Court agrees with Quintana that tacos and burritos are Mexican-style



Signage hangs at Famous Taco's new location in Fort Wayne, Ind., Friday, May 17, 2024.

Associated Press

sandwiches, and the original Written Commitment does not restrict potential restaurants to only American cuisine-style sandwiches," Bobay wrote.

Quintana said Thursday he is relieved the legal fight is over, and he is looking forward to opening his second The Famous Taco

restaurant in Fort Wayne, which is Indiana's second-most populous city with about 270,000 residents.

"I'm glad this thing is over. We are happy. When you have a decision like this the only thing you can be is happy. We're excited," he told The Associated Press. Quintana said he came

to the U.S. from Mexico in 1988, working first as a farm worker in California picking grapes, olives and kiwi fruit before entering the restaurant business in Michigan before moving to Chicago and finally Fort Wayne in 2001. He also operates a second restaurant in the city.

Quintana said his new family-owned The Famous Taco restaurant should open in two or three months. He said that like his other The Famous Taco location that opened nearly seven years ago, customers will be able to choose their favored toppings for tacos, burritos or tortas assembled by eatery staff.

"You know, that's a sandwich, that's bread. That's a sandwich," he said of tortas. "We go through a lot of those." □

Canadian police link 4 women killed in the 1970s to dead American serial sex offender

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian police announced Friday they have linked the deaths of four young women nearly 50 years ago to a now deceased U.S. fugitive who hid in Canada from the mid 1970s to the late 1990s.

Alberta Royal Canadian Mounted Police Supt. Dave Hall said Friday Gary Allen Srery might also be linked to unsolved murders and sexual assaults in Western Canada and authorities are asking the public for more information that may link him to other unsolved cases.

"We are now announcing that we have linked four previously unsolved homicides from the 1970s to a now deceased serial, sexual offender," Hall said at a press conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

Srery died in 2011 in a state prison in Idaho while serving a life sentence for rape. Hall said Srery was identified through the use of DNA



RCMP Superintendent serious crimes branch David Hall speaks about Alberta RCMP linking four historical homicides to deceased serial killer Gary Allen Srery during a press conference in Edmonton, Friday, May 17, 2024.

and criminal databases that helped trace his family tree.

Hall said in 1976 Eva Dvorak and Patricia McQueen were both 14-year-olds living in Calgary, Alberta attending junior high. He said they were last seen walking together in downtown Calgary and said the following day their bodies were found laying on the road under a highway underpass west of Calgary.

He said the spring of 1976 20-year-old Melissa Re-

horek moved to Calgary from Ontario for new opportunities. He said at the time of her death she was a housekeeper living at the downtown YMCA in downtown Calgary and was last seen by a roommate before she went hitch hiking. Hall said the following day her body was located in a ditch in a township west of Calgary.

Hall said in 1977 Barbara MacLean was a 19-year-old Calgary resident from Nova Scotia who moved

west only six months prior. Hall said MacLean was working a local bank and was last seen leaving a hotel bar. He said her body was found six hours later just outside Calgary.

Hall said authorities at the time didn't come up with a cause of death for the two 14-year-olds but said Rehorek and MacLean's deaths were attributed to strangulation.

Hall said although semen from all four crime scenes was collected at the time but technology did not exist at the time to develop profile DNA.

"Were Srery alive today he would be 81 years old," Hall said.

Alberta RCMP Insp. Breanne Brown said Srery had an extensive criminal record including forcible rape, kidnapping and burglary when he fled to Canada from California in 1974. He lived in Canada illegally until his arrest for sexual assault in New Westminster, British Columbia in 1998, she said.

Brown said Srery used nine different aliases in his lifetime and frequently changed his appearance, residence and vehicles. She said he obtained illegal identification and social assistance though aliases and lived a transient lifestyle while occasionally working as a cook in Calgary, Alberta from 1974 to 1979 and then in the area of Vancouver, British Columbia from 1979 until his arrest and conviction of sexual assault in New Westminster in 1998.

Brown said Srery was deported to the U.S. in 2003 where he was convicted in Idaho for sexually motivated crimes and sentenced to life in prison where ultimately died in 2011.

"We know that Srery's criminality spanned decades over multiple jurisdictions and numerous aliases. The Alberta RCMP believe there are more victims and we are asking the public to assist in further S's timeline in Canada," Brown said. □

Israel insists it is doing all it can to protect civilians in Gaza and denies genocide charges

By MOLLY QUELL
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Israel strongly denied charges of genocide on Friday, telling the United Nations' top court it was doing everything it could to protect the civilian population during its military operation in Gaza.

The International Court of Justice wrapped up a third round of hearings on emergency measures requested by South Africa, which says Israel's military incursion in the southern city of Rafah threatens the "very survival of Palestinians in Gaza" and has asked the court to order a cease-fire.

Tamar Kaplan-Tourgeman, one of Israel's legal team, defended the country's conduct, saying it had allowed in fuel and medication to the beleaguered enclave.

"Israel takes extraordinary measures in order to minimize the harm to civilians in Gaza," she told The Hague-based court.

A protester shouting "Liars" briefly interrupted Kaplan-Tourgeman's final remarks. The hearing was paused for less than a minute while security guards escorted a woman from the public gallery.

South Africa told the court on Thursday that the situation in the beleaguered enclave has reached "a new and horrific stage" and urged judges to order a halt to Israeli military operations. The court was holding a third round of hearings on emergency measures requested by South Africa since it first filed its genocide case at the end of last year.

According to the latest request, South Africa says Is-



Israel's agents Gilad Naom, left, Tamar Kaplan Tourgeman, center, and co-agent Avigail Frisch Ben Avraham, right, wait for the start of hearings at the International Court of Justice, in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, May 16, 2024.

rael's military incursion in Rafah threatens the "very survival of Palestinians in Gaza." In January, judges ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza, but the panel stopped short of or-

dering an end to the military offensive. Judges will now deliberate on the request and are expected to issue a decision in the next weeks.

ICJ judges have broad powers to order a cease-fire and other measures,

though the court doesn't have its own enforcement apparatus. A 2022 order by the court demanding that Russia halt its full-scale invasion of Ukraine has so far gone unheeded.

Most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced since fighting began.

The war began with a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which Palestinian militants killed around 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages. More than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war, Gaza's Health Ministry says, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants in its count.

South Africa initiated proceedings in December 2023 and sees the legal campaign as rooted in issues central to its identity. □

English fishing village told to boil water after a parasite outbreak sickens over 45 people

By **BRIAN MELLEY**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A scenic fishing village in southwestern England was under instructions to boil its tap water for a third day on Friday after a parasite sickened more than 45 people in the latest example of Britain's troubled water system.

Around 16,000 homes and businesses in the Brixham area of Devon were told to boil water after cryptosporidium, a microscopic parasite that causes diarrhea, was found in the water. At least 46 cases of cryptosporidiosis have been confirmed and more than 100 other people have reported similar symptoms, the U.K. Health Security Agency said. Symptoms can last more than two weeks.

Sally Dart, who runs a housewares shop near Brixham Harbor, said people in town first began feeling ill two weeks ago during a pirate festival.

"No one was checking the quality of the water and we've all got sick and it's stupid," she said.

South West Water's Chief Executive Susan Davy apologized for the outbreak



A general view of Brixham Harbour, in Brixham, Devon, Friday May 17, 2024.

Associated Press

and said technicians were working around the clock to identify and fix the problem that may have come from a pipe in a cattle pasture.

"I am truly sorry for the disruption and wider anxiety this has caused," Davy said. "I know on this occasion we have fallen significantly short of what you expect of us."

The crisis is unrelated to Britain's larger ongoing water woes but emblematic of an aging system in distress. Water companies have been under fire for more than a year to stop frequent sewage overflows into rivers and oceans that have

literally caused a stink, sickened swimmers, polluted fishing streams and led to an outcry from the public to clean up their act.

An environmental group this week reported that 70,000 sewage releases spilled for a total of 400,000 hours along England's coast last year. More than a quarter were within two miles (3.2 kilometers) of a swimming spot, Friends of the Earth said in its analysis of government data.

Clean water advocates have blamed the problems on Britain's privatization of the water system in 1989. They say that companies have put shareholders

ahead of customers and not spent enough to update outdated plumbing systems.

Thames Water, the largest of the companies, is on the brink of insolvency and its leaders have said it faces the risk of being nationalized after shareholders refused to inject more cash.

Earlier this week, in another sign of problems, millions of gallons of raw sewage were pumped into England's largest lake. After a fault caused pumps to fail, backup systems then pumped human waste into Lake Windermere, a UNESCO World Heritage site, for 10 hours, the BBC reported. The cryptosporidiosis outbreak is hardly the first time South West Water has encountered problems, according to authorities.

The company is facing charges in Plymouth Magistrates' Court alleging 30 offenses for illegal water discharges or breaches of environmental permits between 2015 and 2021, the Environment Agency said. The recent outbreak appears to come from a damaged air valve in a pipe that runs through a field where

cows graze that is close to a reservoir, said Laura Flowerdew, a spokesperson for South West.

With word out about the outbreak, Dart said her business is down by about a third and other merchants complained about a loss of income as warmer weather arrives and a holiday weekend is just a week away.

"I would say it's quiet and it shouldn't be at this time of year," Dart said.

A primary school was forced to close Thursday because it didn't have clean drinking water. The water company is providing free bottled water at three locations and has increased compensation to customers from 15 pounds (\$19) to 115 (\$145).

Paul Hunter, a professor in medicine at the University of East Anglia, said it's likely more people will become ill with cryptosporidiosis in coming days or weeks because of a lag in the incubation period.

"Even if they have stopped all new infections by now, you would expect to see further cases for at least 10 days to two weeks," he told the BBC. □

Senegal's new prime minister criticizes French military presence in the West African country

By **MARK BANCHEREAU**
Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Senegal's new prime minister, who was freed from jail weeks before the presidential election earlier this year and propelled his party to victory, has criticized the French military presence in the West African country.

Ousmane Sonko also criticized efforts by France and the West to promote values that he said didn't fit with those held by Senegal and other African countries, including LGBTQ rights and monogamy. Polygamy is widely practiced in Senegal.

Sonko was speaking late Thursday at an event held jointly with the French far-left politician Jean-Luc Mé-

lenchon in the capital, Dakar.

Sonko is known for his criticism of interference by France, which is Senegal's former colonial ruler. His fiery views in a region where other neighbors have already taken steps to cut ties with France helped his chosen candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye win the presidential election in March. "I want to reiterate Senegal's desire for self-determination, which is incompatible with the long-term presence of foreign military bases in Senegal," Sonko said.

He said the desire to question the presence of French and other foreign forces didn't undermine existing defense treaties that Sen-



Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko addresses journalists following his release from police custody in Dakar, Senegal, on March 8, 2021.

Associated Press

egal has signed with those countries. France has about 350 troops in Senegal.

While Sonko warned that promoting LGBTQ rights could cause conflict between Senegal and France, Mélenchon responded that he had introduced

legislation permitting same-sex marriage in France.

"I thought that this freedom to love anyone had to be open to all that wanted to enjoy it," the French politician said.

Senegal is considered a pillar of stability in a region

that has experienced a wave of coups in recent years, and Sonko's remarks are likely to draw attention from Western allies.

Following coups in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, all three nations have expelled French troops and turned to Russia instead for help fighting yearslong insurgencies there. The three nations also formed their own alliance of Sahel states, causing a split within the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS.

Sonko, whose party has said ECOWAS needs to be reformed, reiterated criticism of the regional bloc for allowing the divisions to grow. □

Community Service Clubs Unite for a major project at Stichting Ambiente Feliz

The Aruba Lions Club, along with seven other community service clubs, held a press conference to announce their largest project of the year scheduled for Saturday, May 25th, at Stichting Ambiente Feliz.

Representatives from Kiwanis Club, Quota Club, Aruba Women's Club, Rotary Club of Aruba, One Happy Island Lions Club, and Rubin Ponson of Aruba Lions Club mentioned that they have been working on this project for a long time to show the community the volunteer work that these groups do.

Members of these eight clubs, along with those wishing to join the initiative, will gather for a project at Stichting Ambiente Feliz on May 25th. This year, the foundation will have the opportunity to receive these groups for various tasks, such as building repairs, painting, cleaning, and other necessary maintenance, according to Ponson.

During these activities, the clients of Stichting Ambiente Feliz will be entertained with a half-day bus trip while the work is being done at their facility.

This idea started some time ago, with several meetings between the clubs, and



"now it's great to see all the clubs coming together to do community work. Unity is strength, and that's what we will demonstrate with many members working together on this project."

Ponson informed that each club is contributing a sum and will make a donation to cover the expenses, with some businesses also providing support.

This is not the first time they have undertaken such a large project. Ponson explained that in the past years they have managed to do similar activities, but it takes a lot of time before they can unite all the clubs again for a project like this.

"We are happy and I believe that through the many meetings we had to reach this point, we could already feel the enthusiasm for doing this work together. Besides meeting colleagues

from other service clubs, I think it's an opportunity for everyone to come together and carry out a great community project," Ponson assured.

He also mentioned that their work is voluntary and it's important for the community to know that these groups always count on the community's support, which is where their funds come from to carry out such projects. Each club has its own projects where the community can make donations during fundraising events and see where and how this work is done.

"Often the clubs are working on projects that not everyone sees at all times, especially when we talk about health-related projects. But if the clubs are working in different areas, we will show that each club's projects are necessary to have the funds and

accomplish these," Ponson said.

When they started with the idea for the project and estimated the expenses that might be involved and divided them among the clubs, "not once did a club doubt they could help with these expenses."

They managed to create a logo on a T-shirt that most clubs will wear on that day. It is a logo with several hands holding each other, forming a heart, and within each heart are the logos of the clubs.

"To us, the logo represents something beautiful and what we stand for as a group on the day of the activity. It is also a beautiful memory of May 25th for each member of each club in their hearts, knowing they contributed to this project," he expressed.

From early morning on May



25th at Stichting Ambiente Feliz, they will carry out their work both inside and outside the building, even doing minor repairs where needed, "to leave the place where all the clients of the organization have the right to a life similar to ours," Ponson said.

For this, they have some materials, but they are still hoping to find financial assistance, as Ponson informed that any financial help is always welcome "because what they have allocated for this budget will be given to this institution afterward."

In the future, they plan to carry out other projects like this but with other organizations that may need it. □



University of Aruba announces their launch of 'O'STAD200 Incubator' on May 20th, 2024.

(Oranjestad)—The O'STAD 200 incubator program, a collaboration between Impact Hub Aruba, the Aruba Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Aruba, celebrates Oranjestad's bicentennial with a focus on entrepreneurship and business growth. The program provides emerging entrepreneurs and established business owners with education, mentorship, and resources to navigate the modern economy.

This initiative stems from a partnership including the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Communication, and Sustainable Development and aims to stimulate innovation and support the local business community amid digital transformation and globalization.

Their mission is to position Oranjestad as a center of business excellence, generating economic development and job creation. O'STAD 200 Inc. plans to

aid selected businesses through comprehensive

education, structured mentorship, network opportuni-

ties, and financial rewards for standout participants. The program includes training, workshops, and networking to steer startups and small businesses towards achievement.

The program launches as of Monday, May 20th, 2024. Visit the [ostad200 website \(ostad200.com\)](http://ostad200.com) and social media to stay updated! □

Photo credit: ostad200.com



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Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University

of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are



truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐



Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.



For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitor Stacy Brundige, from Hoo-sick Falls, New York.

She wrote to us saying: "I recently got married on this beautiful island (May 15th 2024). Aruba to me is marrying my best friend!"

Congratulations Stacy! Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐



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Global temperature is rising Be mindful of the current heat wave this week!

Various international media outlets are raising alarms about a heat wave occurring in the Caribbean, where the heat index could reach up to 50 degrees Celsius. This poses a significant risk to those working or engaging in outdoor activities.

In response, the minister of Nature and Elderly Affairs of Aruba, Ursell Arends, has issued a press release especially directed at the elderly, warning them about the dangers of heat waves. "As Minister of Nature, I recognize that climate change is a reality," stated Minister Arends, noting that the United Nations has confirmed that 2023 has broken all global records for high temperatures, marking the 10th consecutive year of temperature increases.

Although the government cannot change global temperatures, every effort must be made to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable. For this reason, Minister Arends called an emergency meeting with various agencies that in one way or another serve the elderly.



The goal of the meeting was to collaborate with all relevant agencies to develop an action and cooperation plan. "All those involved in caring for the elderly must work together to assess the risks and prepare a plan to mitigate them."

Research on the internet has found data indicating that between 1999 and 2019, more than 150,000 deaths worldwide were related to heat waves each year, according to a recent study published in PLOS Medicine by Yuming Guo

from Monash University, Australia, and his team.

In this study, researchers used data from the Multi-Country Multi-City Collaborative Research Network (MCC), which included daily mortality and temperature records from 750 locations in 43 countries. During the warm seasons from 1990 to 2019, excess deaths related to heat waves accounted for 153,078 deaths per year, totaling 236 deaths per ten billion inhabitants, or 1% of global deaths.

Asia and Europe are the continents with the highest number of deaths per million inhabitants, with the highest mortality rates from heat waves recorded in arid climate regions.

Heat waves, or periods of extremely high temperatures lasting several days, can cause thermal stress on the human body, leading to serious health risks, particularly for the elderly. It is for this reason that we advise our visitors to always carry and wear sunscreen, drink plenty of water and stay in the shade whenever possible. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Timothy & Mrs. Kathleen Blackburn from Plainfield Illinois, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people
- Aruba's drinkable water.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Amazing place to relax".
- Aruba's constant sunshine.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island" □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



The wrongly called divi-divi tree

This famous tree was once the property of the then Dutch government. The Watapana-tree is officially called *Caesalpinia Coriaria*. Nowadays people erroneously call it Divi Divi. There are many types or species that people confuses or contains the name with the Watapana. Aruba has only two plants that use the name watapana: one is a big tree and the other one a brush or schrub called Watapana Shimaron *Desmanthus virgatus*, which means shy Watapana which also contained some tannin.

The watapana originally was called and still known as Guatapana in Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Central America. Pods contain tannic acid and gallic acid. Aruba's Amerindians used to call the pods divi divi. Under this name it was brought on the market in Caracas, to be



shipped to Spain and Germany. Today the real local name is being forgotten.

The Watapana grows almost anywhere on the island and the dried leaves are much sought after for enriching the soil. This tree was so important that in the 19th century onto 1920, that severe penalty was imposed on those who cut a single branch of tree. On lease grounds it was even worse. You needed a special permit by the Lt. Governor to cut one and you better have a very good reason to get such a permit. Twice and three times during a good rainy years seed pods could be collected to be sold and exported. The tree was cared for as to be free from beetles, weevils or termites, for these pests would ruin a harvest. The gathering of the pods (balina's) was the job for women and children. The fruits had to be ripe for the best tannin quality concentration.

The Watapana meanwhile has become the official tree of Aruba and was so decreed by the Aruban Parliament. It is no coincidence that wherever you see aloe the watapana is also present. Both formed a means of income for the countryside population during more than a century. Aruba produced a considerable part of the total Watapana-crops export to Europe. The principal market was Hamburg in Germany.

Episode CXXVI- 126



Divi Divi was used at the tanneries on the Elbe River for the preparation of leather that was manufactured into the greased leather boots of East-European farmers. However, Aruba never shipped direct, everything went via Curacao. In Europe Divi Divi was much in demand and tannin at some places sold for sixty to eighty guilders a ton. One of the best years was 1911, when Aruba exported 303.000 kilos, Curacao 652.000 and Bonaire 1.102.000 kilos.

To get to know more about Aruba's origins, flora, fauna and cultural heritage, we recommend this private cultural encounter session that has been educating participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com or Whatsapp + 297 592 2702 for an amazing native hour. □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several



times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the

town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for Their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

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Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Paul & Mrs. Lyn Johnson from Southington Connecticut, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beautiful sunsets.
- Aruba's wonderful snorkeling spots.
- Aruba's restaurants & shopping options.
- "Visiting the amazing

friends we've made"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our

sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.



For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba
The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a

cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Diesel invention
feature
7 Super serves
11 Inspira-tional saying
12 Desert sight
13 Not worthless
14 Seedy joint
15 Gets up
16 Finishes last
17 Egg setting
18 Envelope type
19 Memo letters
21 Right away
22 Derby drink
25 May honoree
26 Clue weapon
27 Film set on Pandora
29 Diplomatic skill
33 Holdup
34 Small-scale
35 Fix copy
36 Regular customer
37 Met star
- DOWN**
- 1 Make butter
2 Historic riveter
3 Run up
4 Like Sherpas
5 Pipe bends
6 Reuben base
7 Peripheral
8 Chef's specialty
9 Com-pletely enclose
10 Vacillate
16 Accept eagerly
18 College study
20 Wander off
22 Made oneself at home
23 Celine Dion song
24 "Frozen" song
25 Coped
28 Slangy farewells
30 Bitter Hag
31 Hag
32 Musical sounds
34 "Death in Venice" author
36 Soup sphere

M	O	T	I	F	R	A	S	P	S
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E	N	T	E	R	S	U	S	I	E
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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15					16				
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27			28			29	30	31	32
33					34				
35					36				
37					38				
39					40				

5-18

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

H O A R C Z A O O A M O U B V H K Z
G C U O N M U O Y R V T L T V G R V T ;
Y R V H S M U J R C K Z M K X
N R L T X , M K X H O S M U G M J .

— L T V M W V H O O M H K

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DO WHAT YOU CAN,
WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT, WHERE YOU ARE.
— TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 08.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 13.00	21.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



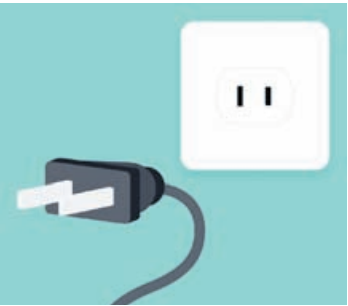
Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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A former OpenAI leader says safety has 'taken a backseat to shiny products' at the AI company

Associated Press

A former OpenAI leader who resigned from the company earlier this week said Friday that safety has "taken a backseat to shiny products" at the influential artificial intelligence company.

Jan Leike, who ran OpenAI's "Super Alignment" team alongside a company co-founder who also resigned this week, wrote in a series of posts on the social media platform X that he joined the San Francisco-based company because he thought it would be the best place to do AI research.

"However, I have been disagreeing with OpenAI leadership about the company's core priorities for quite some time, until we finally reached a breaking point," wrote Leike, whose last day was Thursday.

An AI researcher by training, Leike said he believes there should be more focus on preparing for the next generation of AI models, including on things like safety and analyzing the societal impacts of such technologies. He said building "smarter-than-human machines is an inherently dangerous endeavor" and that the company "is shouldering an enormous responsibility on behalf of all of humanity."

"OpenAI must become a safety-first AGI company," wrote Leike, using the abbreviated version of artificial general intelligence, a futuristic vision of machines that are as broadly smart as humans or at least can do many things as well as people can.

Open AI CEO Sam Altman wrote in a reply to Leike's posts that he was "super appreciative" of Leike's contributions to the company was "very sad to see him leave."

Leike is "right we have a lot more to do; we are committed to doing it," Altman said, pledging to write a longer post on the subject in the coming days.

Leike's resignation came after OpenAI co-founder



The OpenAI logo is seen displayed on a cell phone with an image on a computer monitor generated by ChatGPT's Dall-E text-to-image model, Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, in Boston.

and chief scientist Ilya Sutskever said Tuesday that he was leaving the company after nearly a decade. Sutskever was one of four board members last fall who voted to push out Altman — only to quickly reinstate him. It was Sutskever who told Altman last November that he was being fired, but he later said he regretted doing so.

Sutskever said he is working on a new project that's meaningful to him without offering additional details.

He will be replaced by Jakub Pachocki as chief scientist. Altman called Pachocki "also easily one of the greatest minds of our generation" and said he is "very confident he will lead us to make rapid and safe progress towards our mission of ensuring that AGI benefits everyone."

On Monday, OpenAI showed off the latest update to its artificial intelligence model, which can mimic human cadences in its verbal responses and

can even try to detect people's moods. □

Associated Press



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



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Taking presidential debates out of commission's hands virtually guarantees fewer viewers

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The planned presidential debates between Joe Biden and Donald Trump that were swiftly organized this week are a coup for CNN and ABC News — but a virtual guarantee they'll be among the least-watched general election contests ever.

The two campaigns skirted the Commission on Presidential Debates, which has organized the events for 36 years with the goal of getting them before as many eyes as possible.

ABC, which has assigned David Muir and Linsey Davis as moderators for a debate scheduled for Sept. 10, has said it will make it available for simulcast on any U.S. television network or streaming service that wants it. CNN had not said by early Friday whether it will do the same for its debate, set for June 27 with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash as questioners.

A debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and whomever former President Trump chooses as his running mate is ex-



ABC World News Tonight Anchor David Muir, left, addresses members of the audience while standing with ABC News Live Anchor Linsey Davis, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 in Manchester, N.H.

Associated Press

pected to air this summer on CBS.

Each of the two debates between Biden and Trump in 2020 were carried on at least 16 networks, according to the Nielsen company. The first was seen by 73.1 million viewers, the second by 63 million.

Debates prior to a party's nominating process, which Trump skipped this year, are usually organized and broadcast by individual media organizations. The tradition has been different for those organized by the commission during general election campaigns, said

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, and member of a group of experts Annenberg organized a decade ago that explored ways to increase viewership.

"It's the public's debate," Jamieson said.

For CNN leaders, there's a great temptation to keep it for themselves. It would likely be the most-watched event ever on a network that is struggling in ratings. CNN's chief executive, Mark Thompson, made a point in tying the debate to

the brand on Wednesday when he announced the agreement to hold it during a sales presentation to advertisers in New York.

"When people have something important to say," Thompson said, "they say it on CNN."

CNN said Wednesday the debate would also air live on its international and Spanish-speaking networks, and stream on CNN Max and CNN.com.

The pool of people available to watch on CNN's main television network is dwindling due to cord-cutting of cable and satellite services. CNN was available in 71% of American homes with television in May 2020; this month it's just under 54%, Nielsen said. Keeping the debate on CNN alone would run up against stout criticism that it's not the public-spirited thing to do, something ABC moved quickly to avoid.

Political polarization that has spread to the media would also likely cut into viewership if the event was not shared, Jamieson said. Would Fox News viewers, after years of hearing CNN criticized by some of their

favorite politicians and media figures, turn to CNN for a debate or skip it entirely? It's still not certain how many other networks will carry the debates even with the opportunity. Only PBS has said that it would; other networks have yet to give a public commitment. Some of those executives would have to swallow hard to carry another network's personalities on their air, with the risk some of their regular viewers might like them and switch allegiances. Pressure to carry the debates for public service reasons would be intense, though.

Despite worries about how many people will watch, Jamieson said there's some irony in that there's a lot to like about the proposed ground rules for the event. So far, the plans are to hold them in television studios without an audience.

That's something the Annenberg group had proposed a decade ago, saying an audience that reacts to what the candidates are saying is often a distraction, and that audience is usually packed with partisans on both sides. □

It's not a rock, it's the Athens Rock Lobsters. New minor league team honors B-52s

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

It's not a rock. It's the Athens Rock Lobsters. Ah-ahh-ahhh-ahhhhh! The minor league hockey team that will begin play next season in the home of the University of Georgia paid homage to the city's rich musical heritage by choosing a nickname made famous by one of its most famous bands.

The B-52s released their quirky, crustacean-themed song "Rock Lobster" in the late 1970s. Now, it's moving from the beach to the ice to adorn an expansion team in the Federal Prospects Hockey League. The venerable band endorsed the new moniker in a statement released by

city officials.

"Athens, Georgia is our birthplace and where we started our journey 'down the Atlanta Highway' to spread our home grown groove out to the universe," it said. "'Rock Lobster' was one of our very first songs and we can testify that millions in the galaxy have gone wild to this deep sea surf anthem. We are truly honored to have our hometown hockey team named the Rock Lobsters. As the song declares 'Let's rock!'"

The Rock Lobsters will play in a 5,500-seat arena that has been constructed in the Classic Center complex, where the B-52s played the final show of their farewell tour in January 2023. The



Singers Fred Schneider and Kate Pierson of the music group "The B-52s" perform on NBC's "Today Show" in Rockefeller Plaza on Monday, May 26, 2008, in New York.

Associated Press

band has continued to perform in Las Vegas residencies.

The FPHL is a third-tier, independent league that had 11 teams this season, stretching from the Louisi-

ana bayou to upstate New York. Athens and Danville, Illinois are set to join for the 2024-25 season.

A fan vote of more than 8,000 participants resulted in the Athens Rock Lobsters

edging out another music-themed name, the Classic City Panic, which would've honored the Athens rock band Widespread Panic.

"From the start, we knew we wanted a name that encapsulates the unique energy and spirit of Athens," Britton Briley, the team's director of marketing, said in a statement. "The name 'Rock Lobsters' struck a chord with our fans, blending music, creativity, and a touch of humor. It's the perfect identity for our hockey team."

The team passed on a chance to honor perhaps the most storied act to come out of the musical hotbed: R.E.M.

The Athens Nightswimmers, anyone? □

Tyson Fury meets Oleksandr Usyk for the undisputed heavyweight title in Saudi Arabia

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

After Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk finally meet in the ring this weekend, boxing should have its first undisputed heavyweight champion in nearly a quarter-century.

These are the two best fighters from a strong era of heavyweight boxing. Both have reached their mid-30s still undefeated, and both are determined to reach the pinnacle of their careers by winning every major title belt in their division — a feat that hasn't been accomplished since Lennox Lewis did it in 1999.

"Not only will we be crowning the undisputed heavyweight champion, but the two participants in the fight have never, ever lost a fight," promoter Bob Arum said. "Now, how rare is that?"

Usyk (21-0, 14 KOs) has held three of the world's major titles for nearly three years, while Fury (34-0-1, 24 KOs) holds the fourth after a career in which he has worn all four championship belts



Heavyweight boxers Britain's Tyson Fury, left, and Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk stand on the stage during the weigh-in in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Friday, May 17, 2024, prior to their undisputed heavyweight championship fight on Saturday.

Associated Press

at different points.

They've circled a winner-take-all meeting for years — and after false starts, detours and delays, they're finally together for a fight that will happen deep into Sunday morning in Saudi Arabia to reach a Western audience on Saturday.

"I'm ready for a good fight," Fury said. "And if it's tough or easy, either way, I'll be ready."

The last heavyweight to hold all four major belts was Lewis, who beat Evander Holyfield in 1999 by unanimous decision in Las Vegas. His undisputed reign only lasted about six months, thanks to one of the infinite turf disputes seemingly created whenever sanctioning bodies are involved.

The current monumental moment in boxing history is happening at Riyadh's

Kingdom Arena, and that's no coincidence: Oil-rich Saudi Arabia is spending lavish amounts of money to make the world's top fights, steamrolling the typical grudges and turf disputes between elite boxers and their territorial promoters.

These fighters' camps have been at odds for years — Fury's father head-butted a member of Usyk's entourage on Monday, leaving John Fury with blood streaming down his face — but money made their grudges go away. Fury reportedly could make \$100 million or more in this bout, and a lucrative rematch is highly likely in the fall.

This fight was delayed twice after Fury said he needed more time following his embarrassing performance against former UFC heavyweight champion Francis Ngannou. Fury barely got a split decision to beat a mixed martial artist competing in his first professional boxing match, and the effort stoked speculation as to whether Fury is finally headed downhill.

The 6-foot-9 Fury has never possessed a classic prizefighter's physique, but he looked excessively pudgy when he fought Ngannou, and most observers related his poor conditioning to his overall lack of preparation for the bout.

But Fury showed up in Saudi Arabia to meet Usyk looking noticeably slimmer, and now some are wondering whether he overdid it — whether he will have the bulk to withstand Usyk's body work while retaining the strength to respond with his own power shots.

Fury simply laughs at the speculation, trusting his own training and strength to power through any challenge, no matter the measure of his waistline.

"(Forget) his belts," Fury said. "I'm coming for his heart. That's what I'm coming for."

This is a fascinating tactical fight: The 6-foot-3 Usyk is smaller than Fury, but the Ukrainian's work rate and high-level skill have proven insurmountable for nearly all of his opponents. □

Paul Skenes strikes out 11 in 6 no-hit innings, gets 1st win as the Pirates beat the Cubs 9-3

By **JAY COHEN**
AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Paul Skenes struck out 11 over six no-hit innings in his second major league start, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Chicago Cubs 9-3 on Friday.

Skenes allowed just one baserunner — Michael Busch on a full-count walk on the eighth pitch of the fifth-inning plate appearance — in an utterly dominant performance. After pitching through some nerves in his big league debut against the Cubs last weekend, he looked quite comfortable on a picturesque day at Wrigley Field. "It's really tough to compete without fastball execution, no matter who you are," Skenes said. "It was a lot better today, something I could lean on a little bit

more than the last week." Skenes (1-0), who turns 22 on May 29, struck out his first seven batters, including the side in the first on pitches of at least 100 mph. He struck out Mike Tauchman on a 100 mph fastball on his 100th and final pitch — his 12th to reach triple digits.

The No. 1 overall pick in the 2023 amateur draft became the third rookie with seven strikeouts to start a game, joining Jacob deGrom on Sept. 15, 2014, and Jim Deshaies on Sept. 23, 1986. He also became the first rookie with an outing of at least six no-hit innings and 10-plus strikeouts since Chris Heston threw a no-hitter for San Francisco against the New York Mets on June 9, 2015.

"It was extremely impressive," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "I mean he



Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Paul Skenes delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs Friday, May 17, 2024, in Chicago.

Associated Press

went right after them." Andrew McCutchen and Jared Triolo homered for Pittsburgh, which held on for a 5-4 victory in the opener of the four-game series on Thursday night.

Triolo and Yasmani Grandal each had two hits and three RBIs.

Chicago played without second baseman Nico Hoerner, who missed his fourth consecutive game

because of left hamstring tightness. He is day to day. The Cubs got their first hit when Christopher Morel lined a single into right against Carmen Mlodzinski with two outs in the seventh. Miguel Amaya homered and Morel added a two-run double in the eighth. Chicago finished with four hits in its fourth loss in five games.

Triolo connected for a two-run drive in the third against Kyle Hendricks, and Pittsburgh broke it open with three more runs in each of the next two innings. Grandal's two-run single made it 8-0 in the fifth.

Hendricks (0-4) was tagged for a season-high eight runs and 11 hits in 4 2/3 innings in his second start since returning from of a low back strain. □

Scheffler arrested, released and stays in the mix on a memorable day at the PGA Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Scottie Scheffler was in handcuffs before dawn in the back of a police car. His warmup routine began in a jail cell. And some six hours later, Scheffler remarkably signed for a 5-under 66 and was right in the mix Friday at the PGA Championship. Collin Morikawa set the early pace with five straight birdies that carried him to a 65. Xander Schauffele, fresh off his record start of 62, was not letting up in a bid to beat darkness. Tiger Woods had two triple bogeys and was headed toward a short stay at Valhalla.

Those were mere footnotes on a day that was beyond belief.

"I feel like my head is still spinning," Scheffler said.

The world's No. 1 player and Masters champion was driving to Valhalla about 6 a.m. when he ran into traffic, unaware police were investigating a pedestrian — John Mills, who worked for a vendor at the tournament — being struck and killed by a shuttle bus.

Scheffler was arrested for failing to follow police instructions. The arrest report indicated a Louisville Metro police officer was dragged to the ground as Scheffler's car drove by, causing swelling and abrasions on the officer's left wrist. Scheffler said it was a "chaotic situation" and he never intended to disregard the police instructions. "A big misunderstanding," he said.

"I can't imagine what they're going through. I feel for them," he said of the victim's family. "My situation will get handled."

Scheffler was handcuffed and arrested for second-degree felony assault and three other charges. The winner of a Masters green jacket posed for a mug shot wearing orange jail garb. He could see from the holding cell video of his arrest on ESPN.

His heart was racing and his body was shaking.

"I did spend some time



Scottie Scheffler arrives for a news conference at after the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Valhalla Golf Club, Friday, May 17, 2024, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

stretching in a jail cell. That was a first for me," Scheffler said. "I was just sitting there waiting and I started going through my warmup. I felt like there was a chance I may be able to still come out here and play. I started going through my routine and I tried to get my heart rate down as much as I could today."

"I was fortunate to be able to make it back out and play some golf today."

Not just any golf. He hit a wedge to 3 feet for birdie on his first hole. He was solid from tee-to-green, made a few putts and had a round that ranked among his best under the circumstances.

"As far as best rounds of my career, I would say it was pretty good," Scheffler said. "I definitely never imagined ever going to jail, and I definitely never imagined going to jail the morning before one of my tee times for sure."

He practiced a bit after his round, signed a few autographs and was trying to get back into a routine to

prepare for what Scheffler expects to be a grind.

That much was evident by the scores. Valhalla is soft and defenseless, and hardly any wind made it even easier.

Morikawa posted from the morning wave at 11-under 131, and Schauffele had moved past him as he headed to the back nine. Scheffler was at 133 along with Thomas Detry (67) and Mark Hubbard, who had three bogeys and three birdies over his last seven holes in a round of 68.

Hubbard got some attention early Friday with a post to X that referenced Scheffler's police report, including a listed weight of 170 pounds.

"Scottie's bigger than me, there's no way he's 170," Hubbard said after his round. "Like, I got to get in the gym and stop eating so much of my kids' leftover mac and cheese."

But then he turned serious, as so many other players did, expressing shock over seeing Scheffler in hand-

cuffs and sadness for Mills, the 69-year-old victim.

"I thought the saddest part was that the whole thing was about Scottie getting arrested and all that — and like I said, I'm glad he's doing OK and everything — but I mean, someone died this morning, and we were out there on the course. I bet 90% of the people out here don't even know that happened."

"That's not Scottie's fault at all, but that was the real tragedy today."

Austin Eckroat, who won his first PGA Tour title earlier this year at the Cognizant Classic, got out of his car in traffic and walked the rest of the way. His wife took the car and later returned. He fashioned another 67 and was in the group at 8-under 134.

"I pulled up the local news station trying to figure out what was going on, and the first thing I saw was Scottie had been put in handcuffs," Eckroat said. "And I was like, 'What in the world is going on?' It was a

weird morning."

The only normalcy was the golf. Schauffele is still going strong. Morikawa keeps moving closer to the form that brought him two majors. And Scheffler still looks like the player to beat.

He couldn't discuss many details of the arrest for legal reasons. In the three hours he spent away from the course, Scheffler had three wardrobe changes — gym clothes, jail garb and golf clothes — took a mug shot and hired an attorney. He got back to Valhalla 56 minutes before his tee time. And the cheers and support for him were never louder or unusual, especially the chants of "Free Scottie!" and quickly fashioned T-shirts that said the same.

"I've kept myself in the tournament now with a pretty chaotic day, so I'm going to go from here and focus on getting some rest and recovery and get ready for a grind the last two days," Scheffler said. □